

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Olympia, Washington

December 16, 2003

TO: Early Intervention Services Contractors
Family Resources Coordinators
County Interagency Coordinating Council Chairs
State Interagency Coordinating Council
State Interagency Coordinating Council Committees

FROM: Sandy Loerch Morris, Program Director
Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

SUBJECT: USE OF DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TOOLS

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance around the use of developmental screening tools. Many early intervention service providers use a developmental screening tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. A developmental screening tool can be helpful in determining if there are concerns in any developmental area.

If a developmental screening tool is used, the tool must be administered by trained personnel, according to the protocol of the specific tool. For those developmental areas identified by the tool as having no concerns, the results of the developmental screening tool can be documented as part of the present level of functioning on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). For example, "Gross motor is within normal limits, per the Ages and Stages Questionnaire." For the developmental areas that are identified as having concerns or potential delays, ITEIP requires a minimum of two professionals from different disciplines and two standardized tests or procedures to determine eligibility for early intervention services.

ITEIP has developed an ongoing list of standardized evaluation tools for determining eligibility and a list of screening tools. The lists are periodically updated and are located on the ITEIP web site at: www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip, under Publications, Reports and Documents.

I hope this guidance assists in clarifying the use of developmental screening tools. If you have any questions, please contact your Program Liaison.

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